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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
NATIONAL FOREIGN ASSESSMENT CENTER

6 March 1981

MEMORANDUM

VIEWS OF THE MINISUMMIT ON THE EVE OF
PRESIDENT REAGAN'S VISIT TO CANADA

Summary

Organizers of the minisummit on North-South economic relations, tentatively scheduled to begin on June 11, will meet on 13 March in Vienna and probably will agree to postpone the meeting until next fall if this would assure US participation.

Otherwise, preparations for a June meeting will continue, even though lack of commitment by the probable participants might force the cancellation of the minisummit at the last minute.

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[REDACTED]

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As the host of the summit, Mexican President Lopez Portillo has already proposed some basic guidelines for the meeting. He envisions a three day conference beginning 11 June in Cancun, the resort island off the Yucatan coast. Delegations will be limited to about 10 with only three participants from each country at the conference table--the head of state or government plus two advisors. To minimize press coverage, media representatives will be housed in a separate building and allowed only brief picture taking sessions at the actual conference site. All statements to the press would be handled by a designated spokesman. It is still unclear whether there would be a final communique wrapping up the discussions. [REDACTED]

Agenda

There is little agreement on the structure of the discussions. Lopez Portillo and Kreisky both favor an informal, personal exchange of ideas with no preset agenda. There is growing recognition, however, that the "seminar" must have some structure. Kreisky favors discussion centered around "objective" issue summaries accompanied by position papers from each national delegation. The background papers, [REDACTED] could be drawn up by personal representatives of the host government in consultation with the participating countries. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

The Mexican Government has proposed that an agenda of eight or 10 topics be drawn up with such items as "How to assure petroleum supplies to non-petroleum developing countries." Each item could be accompanied by several discussion options, which would not necessarily be given equal weight or time. That would be determined by the actual participants. [REDACTED]

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Country Positions:

In recent weeks the attitudes of various minisummit participants have become clearer:

MEXICO -- Lopez Portillo remains fully committed to the minisummit as the last chance to rejuvenate a North-South dialogue. He views the minisummit as the litmus test of a country's commitment to international cooperation. He believes that the need for the minisummit is greater now than ever, given the lack of progress in the UN Global Negotiations. He would be reluctant to postpone the minisummit for fear of losing what little momentum remains, but would probably accept a fall date if this would assure US participation. [REDACTED]

AUSTRIA -- Kreisky, as co-chairman, is also committed to the minisummit but views the meeting in philosophical, not pragmatic, terms. Much of his willingness to accept the co-chairman role is due to his personal friendship with Willy Brandt, whose independent commission developed the minisummit concept. Kreisky has not staked a great deal of personal prestige on the success of the meeting and would probably be receptive to postponing the meeting. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

OTHER OECD -- [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Sweden believes that a minisummit without US participation is virtually unthinkable. Despite a commitment to attend the meeting in any event, Sweden prefers to participate in a carefully prepared conference that would enable the US to participate fully. [REDACTED]

USSR -- Kreisky has approached the Soviet leadership on the USSR's participation, but has yet to receive a formal reply. Moscow appears to be wholly uninterested and is waiting to see whether the US participates. Should both the US and China attend the meeting, the USSR probably would accept an invitation. [REDACTED]

CHINA -- Although the Austrians have waited to receive a reply from Moscow before approaching China, the leadership in Beijing already has informed Kreisky that it is disappointed that an invitation has not yet been received. China would unhesitatingly participate in the minisummit, regardless of US or Soviet attendance. [REDACTED]

-4-

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OPEC -- These countries are generally apprehensive about the minisummit, but for differing reasons.

[REDACTED]

OTHER LDCs -- No other LDC has been unequivocally enthusiastic about the minisummit,

[REDACTED]

Outlook:

[REDACTED] If the US agrees to attend a meeting in the fall, the organizers of the minisummit will probably decide to postpone it, although there would be some resentment by the LDCs. In reality, however, many of the organizers would welcome the extra time gained by the delay, given the poor preparations and lack of commitment by some of the participants. Furthermore, a fall minisummit would come after major conferences at which similar topics will be more thoroughly discussed, including the June conference on Economic Cooperation Among Developing Countries (ECDC) in Caracas, the Ottawa Big Seven summit in July, and the UN's Conference on Least Developed Countries this September in Paris.

[REDACTED]

- 5 -

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Pages: 6

Exemptions: (b)(1), (b)(3)